

REMARKS

Claims 17-19 were rejected as indefinite. Claims 18-19 are now canceled. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 15 instead of claim 16. Applicants submit that the change in dependency is sufficient to resolve the ambiguity to which the Examiner objected.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his kind indication that claims 10-11 would be allowable over the art of record if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 8 and 10, and have incorporated into claim 1 the following limitations from claims 8 and 10:

the path and wavelength-channel assignments are carried out so as to drive down a cost function; [*from claim 8*]

the cost function includes, for each link, a cost component for placing a further wavelength channel on such link; [*from claim 10*]

said cost component is selected to decrease as the number of already-placed wavelength channels increases, but to jump to a highest value when the number of already-placed wavelength channels reaches the full capacity of one optical fiber. [*from claim 10*].

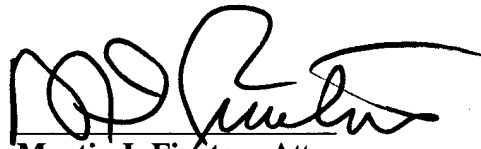
Applicants submit that as amended, claim 1 is now allowable over the art of record.

Claims 5,6, 8, 10, 13, 18, and 19 have been cancelled. Other than claim 1, the remaining claims in the application, all dependent (directly or indirectly) from claim 1, are claims 2-4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-17. It is submitted that all of these claims are allowable at least for substantially the same reason as claim 1.

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Having responded to all points of objection and rejection, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of all claims currently pending in their application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin I. Finston', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: **August 25, 2005**

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